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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Office of  
Public Affairs

# Selected Speeches and News Releases

May 31 - June 8, 1990

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# News Releases

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

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## USDA SEEKS NOMINATIONS TO THE AMERICAN EGG BOARD

WASHINGTON, May 31—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has asked certified egg producer groups for nominations to fill nine member and nine alternate positions on the American Egg Board for the 1991-92 term.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said 51 producer groups are certified to submit nominations under the egg research and promotion order. Nine members and nine alternates of the current 18-member board will continue serving through 1991, he said.

Nominations are sought for: two members and two alternates each from Area 1 (North Atlantic), Area 3 (East North Central), and Area 6 (Western); and one member and one alternate each from Area 2 (South Atlantic), Area 4 (West North Central); and Area 5 (South Central).

The egg research and promotion order provides that certified egg producer organizations within each geographic area can meet jointly to nominate members and alternates. The caucus chairperson in each of the six areas should submit nominations to USDA by Aug. 1.

Individuals who wish to submit their name or any other person's name in nomination may do so through their area certified organizations. To be eligible, nominees must be producers or representatives of producers.

The 18-member board administers the producer-sponsored national research, consumer education, and promotion program designed to strengthen the egg industry's position in the marketplace. Egg Board activities are carried out under the program authorized by the Egg Research and Consumer Information Act of 1974, as amended.

Any questions regarding the nominations may be directed to Janice L. Lockard, chief, Standardization Branch, AMS, USDA, Rm. 3944-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, telephone (202) 447-3506.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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## NEW ANTIBIOTICS MAY FIGHT INFECTIONS CAUSED BY STAPH BACTERIA

WASHINGTON, May 31—Two antibiotics inadvertently discovered in a soil fungus have inhibited the growth of staph bacteria in experiments, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist.

One of the world's leading causes of human infections, *Staphylococcus aureus* can be treated with antibiotics. However, staph has become resistant to earlier antibiotics and is showing increased resistance to the latest one, vancomycin.

"In lab tests the new, potent antibiotics stopped the growth of staph bacteria," says Robert A. Baker, a chemist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service. He and retired colleague James H. Tatum discovered the compounds after fermenting the soilborne fungus *Fusarium solani* in vats.

"We weren't really looking for the antibiotics," Baker says. "We were trying to establish a relationship between the soil fungus and a citrus disease."

Baker isolated the fungus from diseased citrus roots at the Citrus and Subtropical Products Laboratory in Winter Haven, Fla. Antibiotic compounds, called naphthoquinones, are commonly derived from *F. solani*. But these two antibiotics were previously unknown, Baker says.

He says the antibiotics can be easily isolated from fermentation broths. Fermentation is the method used to produce penicillin.

In fact, in the early 1940's, ARS scientists at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory in Peoria, Ill., developed the industrial process for mass producing penicillin.

Many of the antibiotics used in medicine today are produced by culturing or fermenting various species of fungi. Bacteria's ability to develop resistance to antibiotics over time requires that new sources and new compounds be found continually.

The ubiquitous *Staphylococcus* bacterium is no exception, according to Dr. Mary A. Young, M.D., of the Georgetown University Medical Center's Division of Infectious Diseases in Washington, D.C.

Young, an instructor of medicine at the center, says that about 20 to 40 percent of all adults intermittently carry staph bacteria on their skin, in their nose or on their clothes.

Just carrying the bacteria isn't the problem, however. If a carrier gets an abrasion or a cut, then the bacteria can attack not only the surface skin cells, but also enter the body and cause even more serious problems. Once in the blood stream, they can attack the heart valves.

Staph bacteria can cause boils, impetigo, pustular acne, pneumonia and fever. At risk as carriers are hospital personnel who are subjected to patients infected with the bacteria, diabetics who take insulin intravenously, patients with an intravenous connection or people having blood dialysis. Staph is prevalent in newborn babies, sometimes causing extreme diarrhea, and in the vaginal area of up to 10 percent of women.

"The staph organism quickly becomes resistant to antibiotics by producing an enzyme that renders the antibiotic ineffective," Young says.

In the early 1950's and 1960's staph strains became resistant to penicillin. Then semi-synthetic penicillins like methicillin were developed. In a short time, certain *S. aureus* strains resisted these also. Next came vancomycin. In lab tests, some strains now show resistance to vancomycin.

"We need a novel way of interfering with this bacterium's ability to survive," Young says.

Baker thinks his new antibiotics might help. "In tests, we found these new antibiotics inhibited growth of methicillin-resistant bacteria." Baker reports.

"Of course, we're not properly equipped to test these antibiotics on human pathogens. That would be up to some interested pharmaceutical company," he says.

Last year Baker and Tatum patented the antibiotics. As yet, they have no common names, but as chemical compounds, they are identified as 2,3-Dihydro-5,8-dihydroxy-6-methoxy-2-hydroxymethyl-3-(2-hydroxypropyl)-1,4-naphthalenedione and 2,3-Dihydro-5-hydroxy-4-hydroxymethyl-8-methoxy-2-methyl-naphtho [1,2-b] furan-6,9-dione.

Doris Sanchez (301) 344-2767

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## USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, May 31—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 1, through midnight Thursday, June 7.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1988 and 1989 crop base quality loan rates of 51.80 and 50.00 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rates for the 1988 and 1989 crops of upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1989-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

The six-week transition period from using current shipment prices to using forward shipment prices in the Northern Europe price component of the AWP calculation is complete. Beginning with today's calculation through July 31, forward shipment prices will be used to calculate the Northern Europe price.

Because both current shipment prices and forward shipment prices for "coarse count" cotton C.I.F. northern Europe are not yet available, the Northern Europe coarse count price this week will equal the 5-day average of the 3 lowest-priced current shipment prices for "coarse count" cotton C.I.F. northern Europe for the preceding Friday through Thursday. The six week transition period for the Northern Europe coarse count price component of the AWP will begin whenever both the Northern Europe coarse count current price and the Northern Europe coarse count forward price become available.

In calculating the adjustment to average U.S. spot market location, Thursday's current shipment prices for U.S. Memphis territory and the California/Arizona territory as quoted for Middling 1-3/32 inch cotton C.I.F. northern Europe were used.

Based on data for the week ending May 31, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:



## Adjusted World Price

Northern Europe Price ..... 79.10

### Adjustments:

Average U.S. spot market location ..... 13.31

SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton ..... 2.20

Average U.S. location ..... 0.39

Sum of Adjustments ..... -15.90

ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE ..... 63.20 cents/lb.

## Coarse Count Adjustment

Northern Europe Price ..... 79.10

Northern Europe Coarse Count Price ..... -82.56

-3.46

Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton ..... -4.75

-8.21

COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT ..... 0 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Thursday, June 7.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

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## USDA ENLARGES MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY QUARANTINE IN CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON, June 1—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is enlarging the area of California quarantined for the Mediterranean fruit fly to include additional portions of Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino counties.

The existing quarantine was established Aug. 23, 1989, and expanded several times since then. The current extension is based on trapping surveys revealing infestations beyond the previously quarantined areas.

The Medfly is one of the world's most destructive pests of numerous fruits and vegetables, especially citrus fruit. Quarantines are necessary to prevent the spread of the Medfly into noninfested fruit and vegetable-producing areas of the United States. Without the quarantine, the export market for U.S. produce also would be severely limited.

Federal quarantines and supporting regulations impose restrictions on

moving fruits and vegetables that might contain Medflies. The federal actions are supported by California regulations on the movement of regulated articles.

The extension became effective May 25 and will be published as an interim rule in today's Federal Register. Comments will be accepted if received on or before July 31. An original and three copies of written comments referring to docket no. 90-081 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, 866 Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Comments may be inspected at USDA, Rm. 1141-S., 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Amichai Heppner (301) 436-5222

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## USDA REVISES SNAP BEAN STANDARDS

WASHINGTON, June 1—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will revise the U.S. standards for grades of snap beans, effective June 4, to reflect changes in production and harvesting practices.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the revisions would:

- tighten the requirements for snap beans graded U.S. Fancy, permitting fewer broken beans in products of that grade;
- increase slightly the amount of broken beans allowed in the standards for U.S. No. 1 and U.S. No. 2 grades;
- define which types of beans may be given U.S. grades; and
- add definitions for damage and serious damage by broken beans.

The revisions respond to an industry initiative, Haley said.

AMS establishes grade standards and provides official grading for about 600 agricultural products. Use of the standards and grading service is voluntary and industry solicited, and is paid for by the user.

The revision will be published as a final rule in the June 4 Federal Register. Copies may be obtained from the Standardization Section, Fresh

Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, Rm. 2056-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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## USDA REVISES FRESH PINEAPPLE STANDARDS

WASHINGTON, June 1—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is revising U.S. standards for grades of pineapple, effective July 5, reflecting developments in pineapple production and marketing since 1953, when the standards were last revised.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the revisions will:

- permit grading of pineapples without tops;
- make straightness requirements for tops less restrictive;
- simplify certain definitions;
- permit slightly more stem in the definition of “well trimmed”;
- eliminate one of the two overlapping categories for judging color;
- expand definition of certain terms;
- add sets of quantitative scoring limits with which to judge certain defects now judged qualitatively; and
- update the format of the standards.

The revisions respond to an initiative from pineapple growers, Haley said.

AMS establishes grade standards and provides official grading for over 600 agricultural products. Use of the standards is voluntary, i.e., industry-requested, and paid for by the user.

The revisions will be published as a final rule in the June 4 Federal Register. Copies may be obtained from the Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 2056-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20060-6456, telephone (202) 447-4570.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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## **CCC INTEREST RATE FOR JUNE 8-3/8 PERCENT**

WASHINGTON, June 1—Commodity loans disbursed in June by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will carry an 8-3/8-percent interest rate, according to William Penn, acting executive vice president of the CCC.

The 8-3/8-percent rate is the same as May's rate and reflects the interest rate charged CCC by the U.S. Treasury.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-8206

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## **USDA RELEASES ESTIMATES OF PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM RECEIPTS**

WASHINGTON, June 1—An estimated \$342 million will be shared by 43 states and Puerto Rico as their portion of the 1990 National Forest System receipts, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today.

F. Dale Robertson, chief of USDA's Forest Service, said 25 percent of the total 1990 receipts will be returned to states in which National Forest System lands are located. The receipts are collected from land use fees and sale of resources on 191 million acres of national forests and grasslands. States are required by federal law to use their share of the receipts for public schools and roads.

Robertson said that providing advance estimates of the state payments helps local budget planners complete their work. He said the final payments will be based on actual receipts collected, and may vary from the estimates announced today.

According to Robertson, interim payments representing 75 percent of the estimated total state shares of national forest receipts will be made in September. The balance will be paid in December, when final figures on the revenue collected during fiscal year 1990 are available. The counties in some of the states also share in the national grassland and land utilization project receipts which are based on calendar year 1990 revenues and will be paid on or about March 1, 1991.

States received more than \$362 million as their share of 1989 national forest revenues, and participating counties received over \$14.7 million from revenue from land utilization fees on national grasslands.

State by state, the estimated 1990 payments are:



	Payments from National Forest Receipts	Payments from Land Utilization Fees on National Grasslands
ALABAMA	\$1,293,097.51	
ALASKA	8,066,262.77	
ARIZONA	6,775,039.94	
ARKANSAS	6,380,544.78	\$300.00
CALIFORNIA	56,443,838.74	75.00
COLORADO	3,610,887.64	274,773.75
FLORIDA	1,790,500.02	111,250.00
GEORGIA	838,750.04	
IDAHO	11,998,309.72	1,019.75
ILLINOIS	40,906.96	
INDIANA	21,915.13	
KANSAS		1,505,275.00
KENTUCKY	415,951.68	50,000.00
LOUISIANA	3,003,825.01	
MAINE	32,982.66	
MARYLAND		3,531.95
MICHIGAN	1,951,479.99	106,300.00
MINNESOTA	2,117,217.06	
MISSISSIPPI	4,373,887.52	
MISSOURI	2,968,825.04	819.25
MONTANA	9,478,568.55	
NEBRASKA	41,137.51	5,400.00
NEVADA	330,493.14	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	482,746.10	
NEW MEXICO	2,118,379.27	14,816.75
NEW YORK	6,155.00	
NORTH CAROLINA	666,756.55	
NORTH DAKOTA	54.60	2,908,646.00
OHIO	167,565.10	263.36
OKLAHOMA	931,451.79	193,250.54
OREGON	154,679,713.59	6,250.00
PENNSYLVANIA	3,000,985.98	3,000.00
SOUTH CAROLINA	2,549,783.52	
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,614,295.34	82,687.47

TENNESSEE	331,951.75	
TEXAS	1,758,392.02	78,318.96
UTAH	1,125,083.80	
VERMONT	168,881.30	
VIRGINIA	416,893.75	
WASHINGTON	42,281,751.10	
WEST VIRGINIA	708,366.07	
WISCONSIN	734,669.48	
WYOMING	1,268,709.47	227,725.00
PUERTO RICO	15,000.01	
 TOTAL	 \$337,002,007.03	 \$5,573,702.78

Bruce Jewell (202) 447-6957

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## USDA ANNOUNCES PRELIMINARY GRADE LOAN RATES FOR 1990 CROP BURLEY TOBACCO

WASHINGTON, June 1—Preliminary loan rates for various grades of 1990 crop burley tobacco, which reflect the national average price support level of \$1.558 per pound, were announced today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation. The rates range from 80 cents to \$1.77 per pound.

Keith Bjerke, CCC executive vice president, said the national support level for burley is 2.6 cents per pound more than the price support level for the 1989 crop.

Bjerke said the grade loan rates were developed in consultation with the two burley loan associations which administer price support programs for burley tobacco.

The tobacco associations deduct \$1 per hundred pounds from the loan advances to help cover their overhead costs, Bjerke said.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service is proposing to amend the grades for burley tobacco effective for the 1990 crop by adding two new mixed grades. These additional grades are expected to have little effect on the final grade loan rates. When the grade changes are made, the final 1990 grade loan rates will be announced.

CCC will not provide loans on tobacco graded N2L, N2R, N2G, "U" (unsound), "W" (wet), "NO-G" (no grade) or scrap.

1990-Crop Burley Tobacco Type 31, Price Support Schedule

GRADE	LOAN RATE	GRADE	LOAN RATE	GRADE	LOAN RATE	GRADE	LOAN RATE
<i>(Dollars per Hundred Pounds, Farm Sales Weight)</i>							
B1F	175	B3GF	131	T4GR	120	X1F	169
B2F	172	B4GF	128	T5GR	110	X2F	166
B3F	170	B5GF	124			X3F	164
B4F	168			C1L	163	X4F	160
B5F	166	B3GR	131	C2L	162	X5F	151
		B4GR	126	C3L	161		
B2FL	161	B5GR	121	C4L	159	X4M	133
B3FL	158			C5L	154	X5M	128
B4FL	153	T3F	158				
		T4F	151	C1F	170	X4G	117
B1FR	177	T5F	146	C2F	168	X5G	106
B2FR	174			C3F	167		
B3FR	172	T3FR	157	C4F	166	M3F	117
B4FR	170	T4FR	151	C5F	162	M4F	113
B5FR	168	T5FR	146			M5F	107
				C3K	139		
B1R	173	T3R	156	C4K	132	M3FR	117
B2R	170	T4R	151	C5K	128	M4FR	112
B3R	168	T5R	146			M5FR	109
B4R	165			C3M	150		
B5R	163	T4D	124	C4M	143	M4K	100
		T5D	116	C5M	136	M5K	90
B4D	123						
B5D	115	T4K	120	C3V	155	N1L	99
		T5K	111	C4V	149		
B3K	139			C5V	143	N1F	101
B4K	135	T4VF	136				
B5K	130	T5VF	129	C4G	126	N1R	103
				C5G	118		
B2M	155	T4VR	136			N1G	80
B3M	153	T5VR	128	X1L	168		



B4M	147			X2L	165
B5M	141	T4GF	118	X3L	163
		T5GF	110	X4L	159
B3VF	150			X5L	152
B4VF	144				
B5VF	138				
B3VR	146				
B4VR	143				
B5VR	137				

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-8206

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## PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR SAUDI ARABIA

WASHINGTON, June 1—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 255,000 metric tons of barley for delivery to Saudi Arabia during the 1990-91 marketing year.

The marketing year for barley begins June 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 PM eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 447-3273

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## WHEN IT COMES TO NAMING BUGS, NO GAMBLING ALLOWED

WASHINGTON—Gamblers at casinos and racetracks try various ways to play the odds and still may lose, but scientists at the U.S. Department of Agriculture need their bug-naming systems to pay off every time.

“Sometimes it is not as easy as it would seem, since two insects that look alike might be different species,” said USDA’s Douglas R. Miller,



an expert in identifying insects. “Yet another two that look quite different might be the same species.”

Worldwide, scientists have named only about one million species of insects. “There may be 10 to 50 million more,” said Miller, who is the research leader of the laboratory tracking down bug identities—called systematic entomology—in USDA’s Agricultural Research Service.

Miller’s laboratory has specialists working on insect IDs at the ARS research center in Beltsville, Md., and at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History here.

Miller, based at Beltsville, and lab colleagues know the stakes in name-that-insect research. He said the accuracy of an identification “can make or break the efforts,” for example, of fruit inspectors searching for crop-threatening insects to keep out of the country.

A positive ID is critical, he added, for nursery plant operators or farmers who find a pest buildup and need to act quickly to halt an outbreak.

If scientists discover a beneficial insect that farmers and gardeners could use to protect plants against a villainous one, systematic entomologists must be sure they tag a definitive ID on both insect species.

To do this means searching through a collection of 30 million species and thick tomes of insect names and descriptions. It requires carefully checking each wing or leg or abdomen of an insect against what’s known.

But today, Miller said, bug namers not only are looking at insect anatomy, but also are turning to modern biochemistry, bioacoustics (for crickets), DNA studies and computers.

F. Christian Thompson, working at the Smithsonian, has assembled computer databases on hundreds of species of fruit flies. These pests—like the Mediterranean fruit fly that has invaded California again—can attack many different crops. Thompson is also creating a computer system that should help scientists—and fruit growers—who are not insect specialists to determine which insect is which.

“It’s called biosystematic information,” he said. “It will include not only an insect’s physical characteristics, but where it lives, what it eats, where it comes from and its economic importance.”

Thompson’s co-researcher, Alma Solis, specializes in identifying pyralid moths—a pest that can be costly to homeowners, corn farmers and beekeepers. These moths may kill lawns, destroy corn, infect

beehives or even hide in flour and corn meal in the kitchen. Her painstaking approach: she statistically measures body parts to separate them by species.

“At the species level, many characteristics will vary, such as the length of the wing,” she said. “This approach measures the variation and is an attempt to define a species by those measurements.”

Solis works from 144 drawers of moth and butterfly caterpillar specimens in her office. She also may rely on some of the 20,328 drawers of adult moths she has in the Smithsonian’s National Collection of Insects. USDA and the Smithsonian have worked together for 108 years to create this collection of over 30 million insect species.

Dvora Aksler Konstant (301) 344-3108

Issued: June 4, 1990

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## **USDA AND DOI SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

WASHINGTON, June 4—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter and Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan, Jr., today announced plans to work with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) to develop a Hispanic Serving Institutions Partners Program within the two agencies.

“This Memorandum of Understanding demonstrates our commitment to the development of activities that will lead to a greater participation of Hispanic students in federal programs. If the United States is to maintain its competitiveness in the world, we in the federal government must attract the best and the brightest into public service,” Yeutter said.

The Hispanic partners program is designed to improve recruitment and employment opportunities for students from HACU-member institutions. “We need to open up new areas of interest for our youth,” said Lujan. “More important, we want to expand their awareness and consciousness in a way that will stimulate intellectual growth.”

President of HACU, Dr. Antonio Rigual, joined Lujan and Yeutter in a ceremony at the Interior Department to sign separate Memorandums of Understanding (MOU).



The MOU, which takes effect immediately, provides for a committee to advise the two federal agencies and HACU. The committee will make recommendations on policies, procedures programs and services to improve the scope and quality of educational programs and career related activities.

“We must take every step possible to ensure that the full potential of all Americans is developed, so that we can successfully meet the complex challenges of the 21st century,” Lujan said.

“HACU is very pleased that the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture recognize the importance of preparing this country’s Hispanic youth for the work force of the 21st century,” Rigual said. “We sincerely hope that more federal agencies will join in channeling much needed assistance to the colleges and universities that enroll almost half of the nation’s postsecondary Hispanic students.”

Under the terms of the MOU, the Department of Agriculture and the Interior Department will provide information concerning employment needs, and assist HACU in developing relevant curricula; participate in Interagency Personnel Agreements; conduct career fairs and other recruitment activities.

“The Hispanic work force needs to be well prepared in order for the U.S. to remain competitive,” Rigual said. “This MOU is a tremendous first step toward ensuring that Hispanic students will have a greater opportunity to share in the high-tech experience of the future.”

Founded May 1986 in San Antonio, Texas, HACU is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of postsecondary educational opportunities for Hispanic students.

HACU represents those colleges and universities in the U.S. having a minimum of 25 percent Hispanic student enrollment. There are 113 such Hispanic-serving institutions located in 10 states and Puerto Rico.

USDA Kelly Shipp (202) 447-4623  
USDI Steve Goldstein (202) 208-6416  
HACU Pam Salazar (512) 433-1501

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## EIGHT MORE STATES JOIN PSEUDORABIES FIGHT

WASHINGTON, June 4—Eight additional States—Alaska, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina and South Dakota—have joined the fight to wipe out pseudorabies, a costly disease of swine and other livestock, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said today.

According to James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 29 states are now enrolled in the five-stage state-federal-industry pseudorabies eradication program. "Stage I of the program is preparation," he explained; "stage II is control, stage III is mandatory herd clean-up, and stage IV is surveillance to make sure no infection is present. A state can be declared 'pseudorabies-free'—stage V—if it goes for a year in stage IV without finding an infected swine herd."

Iowa and New Jersey join Arizona, California, Florida, Missouri, Texas and Wyoming in stage I; Alaska, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina and South Dakota are in stage II with Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Virginia; and Maine is in stage III with Alabama, Arkansas, North Dakota, Ohio, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

"By October 1990, all states should be in the program," Glosser said. "The goal is to eradicate the disease in domestic swine by the year 2000."

Pseudorabies is a contagious livestock disease that is most prevalent in swine. Although it often causes death in newborn pigs, older hogs may survive the infection and remain carriers of the virus for life. Stress or other conditions may trigger the virus from its latent state in these carrier animals. Pseudorabies, sometimes called Aujeszky's disease or "mad itch," also affects cattle, sheep, dogs, cats and other animals. In these species, it almost always causes death. Pseudorabies does not affect humans.

Glosser pointed out that a number of new tools are being used in the campaign to eradicate pseudorabies, including genetically engineered vaccines that allow tests to differentiate between infected and vaccinated animals. "In past programs against other diseases, use of vaccines sometimes masked the disease and made it difficult to detect infection," he said. "But the genetically engineered vaccines will let us use vaccination as a valuable weapon in helping wipe out this disease."



Glosser said the pseudorabies eradication effort is unique in that the swine industry took the lead in developing standards for the eradication program. In essence, pork producers got together and said, “Here is the kind of program we need to get rid of this disease,” he said.

Larry Mark (202) 447-3977

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## **USDA PROPOSES NEW PROCESSING, LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR SOME TYPES OF MEAT PATTIES**

WASHINGTON, June 5—The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service is proposing specific processing and labeling requirements to assure the safety of fully cooked, partially cooked, and char-marked ground meat patties sold to food service institutions and consumers.

Examples of these kinds of products include ready-to-heat hamburgers, Salisbury steaks, breaded and battered chopped veal steaks, beef patties, and pork sausage patties. The proposal will be open for public comments through July 5.

In addition to the above proposal, FSIS is issuing advance notice of proposed rulemaking on processing and labeling requirements to assure the safety of other uncured, cooked and partially cooked meat and poultry products. Examples of these types of products include nuggets, fritters, crumbles, Jamaican style patties, and loaves. FSIS is soliciting public comments on the proposed rulemaking; comments will be accepted through Sept. 4.

“There has been increasing evidence over the past several years that certain foodborne pathogens, such as Salmonella, Escherichia coli 0157:H7 and Listeria monocytogenes, may survive in heat-processed meat patty products that appear to be fully cooked,” said FSIS Administrator Dr. Lester M. Crawford. “After careful consideration, USDA believes that mandatory processing procedures and labeling statements are required to control the potential risks of foodborne illness from these convenience products.” handling, labeling and storage of these products. For instance, partially cooked ground meat patties would be required to bear the statement “Partially-Cooked: For Safety Cook Until Well Done (Until Juices Run Clear)” adjacent to the product name.

The proposed rule is a followup to a notice of proposed rulemaking published in the Federal Register on Dec. 27, 1988. Comments received on the original notice and other information have resulted in a number of changes in the proposal. FSIS is now accepting additional comments on the revised proposal.

Notice of both the proposed rule and of the advanced notice of proposed rulemaking appeared in the June 4 Federal Register. Comments may be submitted to: Policy Office, Attn; Linda Carey, Hearing Clerk, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 3171 -South, Washington, D.C. 20250.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service operates many federal regulatory programs to help ensure that meat and poultry products are safe, wholesome, and accurately labeled.

Jim Greene (202) 382-0314

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## **SWEETPOTATOES WITH BUILT-IN BUG DEFENSES**

WASHINGTON—New sweetpotato varieties with built-in defenses against insects are producing better harvests than are standard varieties protected by insecticides, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists.

Chemicals naturally occur in the skins of most sweetpotatoes, providing some resistance to insects and nematodes. But few have the level of resistance of three new varieties, the scientists said.

Regal, Southern Delite and Excel—the varieties—were developed by researchers with USDA's Agricultural Research Service working at the U.S. Vegetable Laboratory in Charleston, S.C.

“Resistance in Excel amounts to 80 percent control of soil insects, 75 percent of the sweetpotato flea beetle and 92 percent of the white grub,” said ARS plant geneticist Alfred Jones, who helped develop the varieties. “That’s control you just cannot achieve with the presently recommended chemical treatments.”

Excel, the newest of the varieties, has unusually strong resistance to seven common soil insect pests in field tests: southern potato wireworm, tobacco wireworm, banded cucumber beetle, spotted cucumber beetle, elongated flea beetle, pale-striped flea beetle, and sweetpotato flea beetle.



It also has high levels of resistance to the white grub and southern root knot nematode.

Excel's resistance to nematodes has another potential benefit, according to Jones. He said that since Excel reduces the nematode population in a field, growing it means farmers might not have to use a nematicide on the following crop—even if the crop is not resistant to nematodes.

On test plots, the three new varieties produced more marketable potatoes without insecticide than did Jewel when it was sprayed regularly with insecticide. Jewel, the current queen of commercial varieties, is the standard against which new varieties are usually measured.

When these varieties were grown with insecticides, they produced even better harvests, according to ARS plant pathologist Philip Dukes, who also worked on the project along with entomologist James M. Schalk.

“In one trial conducted as an outside verification at Mississippi State University, Southern Delite produced five times more sweetpotatoes that graded U.S. No. 1 quality than did the Jewel variety when they were both treated with insecticide,” Duke said.

Kim Kaplan (301) 344-3932

Issued: June 5, 1990

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## USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, June 5—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 8.45 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 7.58 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 7.52 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.22 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$5.31 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$4.88 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$4.86 per hundredweight.

Today's changes of world market prices reflect changes in world milled rice prices and adjustments for domestic by-product values.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made June 12 at 3 p.m. EDT, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-7923

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## **CYPRUS ELIGIBLE FOR MORE BARLEY UNDER EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON, June 5—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced an opportunity for sales of an additional 250,000 metric tons of U.S. barley to Cyprus under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program.

Sales of barley will be made to buyers in Cyprus at competitive world prices. The export sales will be made through normal commercial channels with the assistance of commodities from the inventory of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in the Cypriot market.

This allocation will be valid for a one-year period as provided for in the invitation for offers. Details of the program, including an invitation for offers from exporters, will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Mark Rowse, (202) 382-9240, or Larry McElvain, (202) 447-3224. For a tape-recorded message announcing the issuance of invitations under EEP call the CCC Operations Hotline, (202) 447-2042.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

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## **PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR JORDAN**

WASHINGTON, June 5—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 150,000 metric tons of hard red winter wheat for delivery to Jordan during the 1990-91 marketing year.

The marketing year for wheat began June 1.



USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 PM eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 447-3273

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## **FLUE-CURED TOBACCO ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MEET JUNE 26**

WASHINGTON, June 6—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Flue-Cured Tobacco Advisory Committee will meet Tuesday, June 26, at 1 p.m. in the Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Building, 1306 Annapolis Drive, Raleigh, N.C., to establish marketing and submarketing areas, selling schedules for the 1990 marketing season and market opening dates.

The 39-member committee, established by the secretary of agriculture, provides information essential to the orderly marketing of flue-cured tobacco and recommends opening dates and selling schedules for the flue-cured tobacco-growing regions from Virginia to Florida.

The meeting is open to the public. Those wishing to address the committee should contact the director, Tobacco Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 502 Annex, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone (202) 447-2567. Written statements may be submitted to the same address before or after the meeting, or may be given to the chairman at the meeting.

Notice of the meeting will be published in the June 8 Federal Register.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-4026

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## YEUTTER NAMES MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES TO NATIONAL TOBACCO ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, June 6—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter has named 14 members and their alternates to the National Advisory Committee for Tobacco Inspection Services to serve two-year terms ending May 14, 1992.

Authorized by a 1981 federal law, and established in 1982, the committee advises the secretary of agriculture on the level of services needed to provide USDA-inspection of all varieties of tobacco and on fees to charge for these services. It consists of 14 tobacco producers representing all U.S. tobacco production areas and meets at the secretary's call.

Appointed members and alternates are Ralph L. Collett, Thomasville, N.C.—alternate Anna B. Morris, Snow Hill, N.C.; Bruce L. Flye, Battleboro, N.C.—alternate Richard J. Jenks, Apex, N.C.; Malcolm S. Whitford, Grantsboro, N.C.—alternate Robert E. Hale, Enfield, N.C.; Annie J. Blue, Kinston, N.C.—alternate Charles M. Lambeth, Greensboro, N.C.; Alwood B. Ervin Jr., Richlands, N.C.—alternate Margie H. Spivey, Lumberton, N.C.; Theodore R. Kuster, Paris, Ky.—alternate Mark V. Paschall, Murray, Ky.; Carl Mitchell Jr., Frankfort, Ky.—alternate William E. Russelburg, Hawesville, Ky;

Paul R. Hornback, Shelbyville, Ky.—alternate Norman L. Roberts, Pleasureville, Ky.; James N. Infinger, St. George, S.C.—alternate Joseph W. King, Johnsonville, S.C.; Archie Bailey, Meadowview, Va.—alternate Emmett D. Odle, Nicklesville, Va.; Wavell D. Robinson, Pavo, Ga.—alternate Randall A. Morris, Uvalda, Ga.; Timothy M. McClary, Delano, Tenn.—alternate Carl E. Biddle, Talbott, Tenn.; Frederick Glander, Germantown, Ohio—alternate Eugene H. Crull, Evansville, Wis.; Kenneth D. Dasher, Live Oak, Fla.—alternate Mark E. Wittmeyer, Platte City, Mo.

Members Flye, Robinson and Glander are reappointments. Appointees may serve a maximum of three terms as members or alternates.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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**THIS WEEK’S HONEY-LOAN REPAYMENT LEVELS  
UNCHANGED**

WASHINGTON, June 7—Producers may repay their 1989 honey price-support loans at the following levels, according to Keith D. Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Commodity Credit Corporation:

**Weekly Honey-loan Repayment Levels, color and class, cents per pound, 1989 crop Table**

White .....	40.0
Extra-light Amber .....	37.0
Light Amber .....	36.0
Amber .....	35.0
Nontable .....	33.0

The weekly repayment level for 1990-crop honey is 38.0 cents per pound for all colors, table and nontable grades.

Levels are unchanged from those announced last week.

Producers who redeem their honey pledged as loan collateral by repaying their honey-price support loans at these levels may not repledge the same honey as collateral for another loan.

Contacts: Jane K. Phillips (202) 447-7601 8:00 am-4:30 pm EST

John C. Ryan (202) 447-8207 4:30 pm-5:30 pm EST

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**TOBACCO INSPECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MEET  
JUNE 25**

WASHINGTON, June 7—The National Advisory Committee for Tobacco Inspection Services, which advises the secretary of agriculture on the level of inspection services to be maintained and the fees to be set for the services, will meet on Monday, June 25 at 1 p.m. in the Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Building, 1306 Annapolis Drive, Raleigh, N.C.



The agenda includes discussion of the distribution of graders among markets for the 1990-91 auction season, tobacco inspection and related services.

The meeting is open to the public. Anyone who wishes to address the committee should contact the director, Tobacco Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 502 Annex Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone (202) 447-2567.

Written statements may be submitted to the same address before or after the meeting, or may be given to the chairman of the committee at the meeting. Notice of the meeting will be published in the June 8 Federal Register.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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## **News Releases Continued.**

**USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Rice Prices**

**Cyprus Eligible for More Barley Under Export Enhancement Program**

**Private Exporters Report Sales Activity for Jordan**

**Flue-Cured Tobacco Advisory Committee to Meet June 26**

**Yeutter Names Members and Alternates to National Tobacco Advisory Committee**

**This Week's Honey-Loan Repayment Levels Unchanged**

**Tobacco Inspection Advisory Committee to Meet June 25**

